

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W

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R 150702Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 877

INFO DA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CDRMICOM REDSTONE ARSENAL AL/AMCPM-TO

COMDT USAIS FT BENNING GA/DIRWEADEPT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 200

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, US, MU

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF TOW MISSILE TRAINING: PLANS AND  
PROSPECTS FOR DEPLOYMENT

REF: MUSCAT 176 (NOTAL); MUSCAT 157 (NOTAL)

1. MTT (CAPT. MEREDITH AND SGT. BATTLE) RETURNED TO MUSCAT  
FROM SUR FEB. 11 FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF INITIAL TOW TRAINING  
CYCLE. DURING FEB. 12 CALL ON DCM, BOTH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION  
WITH WAY THINGS HAD GONE AND GUARDED OPTIMISM RE SAF ABILITY  
TO USE TOW.

2. AFTER MTT TRAINED FIRST TOW TEAM AT SAFTR (TRAINING BASE  
WEST OF MUSCAT), THEY MOVED WITH TEAM TO SUR ON FEB. 1.  
AT LATTER SITE, OMANI TEAM PROCEEDED TO TRAIN ADDITIONAL  
24 SAF TROOPS. TRAINING CULMINATED FEB. 9 WITH TWO SUCCESSFUL  
FIRINGS OF HE MISSILES. DIRECT HITS SCORED EACH TIME ON  
STATIONARY TARGET OF ROCK-FILLED OIL DRUMS AT A RANGE OF  
ABOUT 1700 METERS.

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3. CAPT. MEREDITH RECOMMENDS THAT NO MAJOR REPAIRS BE

UNDERTAKEN LOCALLY, BUT RATHER THAT DEFECTIVE UNITS OR ELEMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO REDSTONE ARSENAL FOR SERVICING. SAF HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE.

4. ACCORDING TO MTT'S INFORMATION, SAF LOOKING TOWARDS FINAL STRENGTH OF 32 TOW LAUNCHERS. IF SO, THIS IMPLIES PROCUREMENT OF 22 ADDITIONAL UNITS, PROBABLY OVER NEXT 18-24 MONTHS. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY OMANI DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL FORMALIZE REQUESTS THROUGH EMBASSY.

5. PLANNING AS DISCUSSED WITH MTT CALLS FOR TOW DEPLOYMENT AS FOLLOWS: 2 UNITS WITH 10 MISSILES EACH PLUS ONE TRAINER AT HABARUT; 4 UNITS AT MAKINAT SHIHAN WITH 10 MISSILES EACH; 1 UNIT AND OTHER TRAINER AT SAFTR; 3 UNITS AND ABOUT 98 MISSILES AT SUPPLY DEPOT AT RUSAIL. REMAINDER OF MISSILES EVIDENTLY WILL BE STORED AT HEADQUARTERS OF OMAN GENDARMERIE (IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY).

6. IN KEEPING WITH HIGH-LEVEL OMANI DECISION, BRITISH AND OTHER EXPATRIATES NEVER REENGAGED DURING TRAINING CYCLE, ALTHOUGH COMPANY TO WHICH OPERATIONAL UNITS ATTACHED IS UNDER COMMAND OF BRITISH CONTRACT OFFICER.

7. RE EVALUATION OF TRAINING AND POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS, MTT FELT THAT OMANI SAF MEMBERS REASONABLY WELL-MOTIVATED, THOUGH NOT TERRIBLY ENERGETIC. THEY SEEM TO HAVE LEARNED WELL ENOUGH, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS SCORED ABYSMALLY LOW ON EVALUATION TESTS. LEADERSHIP (BOTH EXPATRIATE AND OMANI) JUDGED TO BE POOR. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE DELEGATED; AT SAME TIME, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BRITISH COMPANY COMMANDER (PARA 5) CANNOT BE OMNI-PRESENT.

8. ON POTENTIAL USE OF TOW, MTT DISCOURAGED INCLINATION OF SOME TO THINK OF EXPENDING MISSILES AGAINST LONE ENEMY TROOPS. THEY (MTT) WERE TOLD THAT PDRY ARMOR HAS MANEUVERED ON OMANI SIDE OF BORDER (N.B. EMBASSY HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF INCURSIONS ACROSS ILL-DEFINED BORDER). THERE WAS SOME TALK ABOUT USE AGAINST CAVES (PERHAPS SHIRISHITTI) PRESUMABLY USED AS PFLO AMMO CACHES. MTT BELIEVES THIS COULD BE EFFECTIVE.  
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9. EMBASSY COMMENDS MTT ON THEIR DISCREET AND EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF A DIFFICULT TASK.ZWEIFEL

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## Message Attributes

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